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Message Text

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42
ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SAM-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04

H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-15 ACDA-10 SAJ-01 OMB-01 TRSE-00 ARA-10

IO-11 /109 W
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P R 011805Z MAR 76
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8336
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY LIBREVILLE
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA
AMEMBASSY LAGOS
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LISBON
AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

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E. O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, AO
S0BJECT: INTERVIEW WITH ANGOLAN PRIME MINISTER

1. THE MARCH 7 ISSUE OF THE WEEKLY NOUVEL OBSERVATEUR CARRIES AN INTERVIEW BY CORRESPONDENT RENE BACKMANN WITH PEOPLES REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA PM LOPO DO NASCIMENTO (LDN). LDN SAYS THAT ANGOLA WILL BE ONE OF THE FEW AFRICAN COUNTRIES TO BE NEITHER A SOVIET NOR AN AMERICAN BASTION. HE NOTES THAT NO ONE SEEMS CONCERNED ABOUT US AND FRENCH BASES NOR ABOUT FRENCH BUDGETARY SUPPORT IN MANY COUNTRIES. "WE KNOW THE ANGOLAN POSITION CAN SWING THE AFRICAN SITUATION. WE ARE CONSCIOUS OF THIS ROLE AND DETERMINED TO MAINTAIN OUR POLICY OF INDEPENDENCE AND NONALIGNMENT."
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2. RECALLING THE MPLA'S PRE-INDEPENDENCE DECISION TO REQUEST CUBAN HELP, LDN SAYS A FUTURE FOREIGN MILITARY PRESENCE WILL DEPEND ON DECISIONS ABOUT ARMY TRAINING. HE INDICATES THAT USE OF PORT FACILITIES WILL DEPEND ON FUTURE AGREEMENTS NOT ONLY WITH THE USSR, BUT OTHER COUNTRIES, LIKE SCANDANAVIA, WITH WHICH ANGOLA HAS GOOD RELATIONS. PREFERENTIAL RELATIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED WITH OTHER EX-PORTUGUESE COLONIES AND EVEN PORTUGAL. ANGOLA IS DISPOSED TO PREFERENTIAL RELATIONS WITH ITS NEIGHBORS, EVEN ZAIRE, IF IT RESPECTS ANGOLA'S POSITIONS.

3. LDN SAYS SOME WHITES ARE AS ANGOLESE AS HE, WELCOMES THE RETURN OF CERTAIN SKILLED WHITES AND CALLS THE MPLA THE ONLY GUARANTEE OF THE MAINTENANCE IN ANGOLA OF PEOPLE OF PORTUGUESE ORIGIN. MENTIONING THE TRADITIONAL GOOD RELATIONS AND AFFINITIES BETWEEN ANGOLA AND FRANCE, HE SAYS IT IS "TOO BAD" FRANCE WAITED "UNTIL IT JUDGED IT RIGHT" TO RECOGNIZE THE MPLA.

4. LDN MAKES A DISTINCTION BETWEEN FNLA AND UNITA LEADERS AND FOLLOWERS, SAYING THE LATTER WERE NEVER LINKED TO SOUTH AFRICA LIKE THE FORMER. THE POLITICIANS AND SOLDIERS OF THE TWO RIVAL MOVEMENTS, TOO, HAVE VARYING DEGREES OF RESPONSIBILITY FOR SUCH THINGS AS THE MASSACRES AT HUAMBO AND BENGUELA, WHICH, HE THINKS, WERE NOT THE WORK OF POLITICANS. "TIME MUST PASS AND TEMPERS COOL."

5. ADMITTING THAT TRIBAL SENTIMENTS EXIST IN ANGOLA, LDN SAYS THEIR EFFECT WILL DEPEND ON "OUR CAPACITY TO GIVE ALL ANGOLANS A NATIONAL CONSCIENCE, ON OUR CAPACITY TO RESOLVE PROBLEMS IN THE KNOWLEDGE THAT THE NATIONAL REVOLUTION IS EVEN MORE DIFFICULT TO ACCOMPLISH THAN THE WAR OF LIBERATION." FINALLY, BECAUSE THE NECESSARY POLITICAL, SOCIAL AND IDEOLOGICAL CONDITIONS DO NOT EXIST, LDN SAYS THERE WILL BE NO GUERRILLA WAR. MOREOVER, THE NECESSARY SUPPORT FROM NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES IS LACKING SINCE ZAIRE, ZAMBIA, AND EVEN SOUTH AFRICA WOULD NOT SUPPORT AND STIMULATE
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A GUERRILLA WAR DOOMED TO FAIL.
RUSH

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